

Department Agriculture & Land Stewardship
Budget Unit Regulator-v Division
Organization Name Animal Industry Bureau
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Organization No.
Organization Priority BU Priority .

DEPARTMENT OF MANAGEMENT

BUDGET WORKSHEETS

FY July 1, 2001 to June 30, 2002

DECISION PACKAGE-NARRATIVE

SB Schedule 4B

BFY 2002

Decision Package Justification:*

DESCRIPTION OF PACKAGE:

This package requests \$323,382 to establish a subsidized testing program of Iowa dairy cattle herds for Johne's disease, the establishment of a voluntary herd status program for Johne's negative herds in accordance with guidelines issued by the National Johne's Working Group, and an educational campaign directed at Iowa producers. This package will also provide funding for the formation of an Iowa Johne's Advisory Committee, composed of all aspects of the cattle industry, veterinarians, producer groups, industry groups, legislators, and other interested individuals. This package also requests \$25,000 for establishing, in cooperation with Dr. C. Thoen and Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine, four to five Johne's demonstration projects.

OBJECTIVES TO BE ACCOMPLISHED:

1. To provide a subsidy to encourage testing of Iowa dairy herds for the presence of Johne's Disease. 2. To educate producers about Johne's Disease and its potential impact on their cattle operation. 3. To recognize Iowa dairy cattle herds, through statistical sampling, which have demonstrated a low risk of Johne's Disease. 4. To work with the Iowa dairy cattle industry, and other impacted industries, to cooperatively develop a Johne's control program for Iowa dairy producers. 5. To form an Iowa Johne's Advisory Committee to aid in policy and program development. 6. To establish Johne's demonstration projects which will provide data to aid Iowa producers in the management and testing strategies most effective in the avoidance / control of Johne's disease in infected Iowa herds.

DECISION-MAKING CRITERIA:

Johne's disease is a serious and widespread disease of cattle, sheep, goats, and other ruminants. Chronic diarrhea, weight loss, and eventual death characterize Johne's disease. The disease is slow to develop, and an infected animal may go years without showing symptoms. An infected animal, which is free of symptoms at the time of sale, may spread the disease to a buyer's herd. The disease has a serious impact on milk production, and is ultimately fatal to infected animals.

Information from a 1996 U.S.D.A. study of dairy herds found that, in infected herds where at least 10% of the cull cows showed clinical signs of Johne's Disease, the average cost to the producer was \$227 for each cow in the herd per year. Using the estimated prevalence from this same study (25%) and statistics covering Iowa dairy herds (3400 herds, 80 cows per herd), a conservative cost for the Iowa dairy industry would be \$15.2 million per year (\$18,160 for the 80 cow herds). This same study estimated that the prevalence rate, based on their sampling, may be up to 42% (\$26 million per year).

Liability issues and concerns associated with the diagnosis of Johne's disease in a herd have been an impediment to producers and herd veterinarians, resulting in less than desirable levels of herd testing. Producers, knowing the ramifications of a Johne's Disease diagnosis in their herd, are reluctant to test. Veterinarians face the dilemma of certifying the health status of animals from a known or suspected Johne's positive herd. Herd testing is critical for the control of Johne's disease. Without testing, the disease will continue to spread and the economic realities of the disease will devastate the producers. Johne's Disease has taken on increased importance in interstate, as well as international, certification for animal movement.

The program is designed as a voluntary testing program based on the concept of herd risk and recognizing the diagnostic testing challenges of this disease. The program is also designed to begin identifying control and avoidance strategies most effective for Johne's disease in Iowa dairy production operations through the use of demonstration project farms.

CONSEQUENCES:

Johne's Disease concerns will not be addressed. Iowa will face a competitive disadvantage as surrounding states develop and implement testing and control programs.

ALTERNATIVES:

There are no alternatives. The costs of this initiative could be modified by increasing or decreasing the amount of testing subsidy.

*Include a description of the package, objectives to be accomplished, a list of decision making criteria, the consequences of not approving this package and alternative ways of performing this function.

I. The Cumulative Funding Total **Includ-**
ing this Decision Package is:

- ☐ Below Current Level
☐ Equal to Current Level
☒ Greater than Current Level

II. Is this function, operation or
Activity currently being done?



III. The Cumulative Service Level Total
Including this Decision Package is:

- ☐ Below Current Level
☐ Equal to Current Level
☒ Greater than Current Level